

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, and 7 to 16 are pending in the application.

Specification

The typographical error in paragraph 0016 has been corrected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Niethammer et al.* (US 6,390,043).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2, 3, and 4 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 4, 7, 11, and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2, 3, and 4 and should thus be allowable together with dependent claims 5, 9, 10, and 12.

Claim 7 has been amended by incorporating therein the features of claim 1 and claim 6 and should thus be allowable together with dependent claims 8, 14-16 (claims 14 to 16 correspond to original claims 9, 10, and 12).

Claim 11 has been amended to include the features of claims 1, 9, and 10 and should thus be allowable.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of claim 1 and should thus be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

The amendment presents four independent claims. The claim fee for one independent claim in excess of three in the amount of \$88.00 is to be charged to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned

would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on October 13, 2004,

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10/13/04: Amd for Ser. No. 10/707,530 - Inventor(s): Sluka et al. - Filing Date: 12/19/2003